



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

For Immediate Release
April 17 2008

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U.S. Official Honors Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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(FRANKFORT, April 17, 2008) – 2008 is the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, and it is shaping up to be its most successful yet.

“Kentucky is a national leader in every aspect of veterans affairs,” said William Tuerk, Undersecretary of Memorial Affairs for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in a recent visit here. “Not just in building and operating veterans cemeteries, but in running veterans nursing homes and helping veterans and their families obtain their benefits. Very few states can match Kentucky.”

Under-Secretary Tuerk brought a tangible expression of the federal government’s appreciation in the form of \$1.31 million in additional funding for the state’s third veterans cemetery, Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North in Williamstown.

“We are honored by Secretary Tuerk’s visit and his kind words for our work,” said KDVA Commissioner Les Beavers. “We are looking forward to him being our special guest at the dedication of Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North this July.”

Since the General Assembly created the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and Governor Paul Patton appointed retired Army Brigadier General Beavers as Commissioner in 1998, KDVA has built three state veterans cemeteries, built two veterans nursing homes,

established special programs to help homeless veterans and women veterans, and more than quadrupled the number of Veterans Benefits Field Representatives stationed throughout the state to help veterans obtain their earned benefits.

KDVA is currently planning two more state veterans cemeteries, in Greenup and Leslie Counties, an expansion of Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson, and a fourth veterans nursing home near Fort Knox.

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